

In The Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices; and

evaluating the request based on criteria ~~predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request;~~

if the criteria are met, redirecting the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

if the criteria are not met, serving the stored object via the web server.

46. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises:

~~serving the stored object through the recipient of the received request when the selected criteria are not met; and~~

informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

47. (Currently Amended) The web server according to Claim 46, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the ~~recipient of the received request~~ web server.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 47, wherein informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Wireless Session Protocol.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, further comprising requesting establishment of the subsequent connection automatically in response to the redirect code.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a size of the stored object.

53. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on predetermined criteria ~~to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request~~ comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically-specified number.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of the current network conditions.

57. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ criteria comprises a naming extension of the stored object.

58. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 57, wherein evaluating the request based on criteria ~~predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request~~ comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

60. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 60, wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ criteria comprises a name of the stored object.

63. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on ~~predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request~~ comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

65. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on ~~predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request~~ comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 65, wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions.

67. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ criteria comprises a content type of the stored object.

68. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 68, wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

70. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request based on predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions.

72. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the ~~predetermined-criteria~~ comprises using one or more wildcards which may operate to match more than one stored object.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the intelligent system comprises network-attached storage.

74. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~deploying objects~~ creating a link to an object, the method comprising:

receiving a ~~deployment~~ request for a particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

~~deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;~~

evaluating characteristics of the particular object;

creating a redirect link on ~~one or more servers~~ one or more web servers from which the particular object may be requested if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet ~~predetermined~~ criteria, the redirect link being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

creating an object serving link on the one or more the web servers ~~the one or more servers~~ if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the ~~predetermined~~ criteria.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the redirect link enables returning a direct status code to a requester of the object.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, further comprising requesting establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the redirect link are programmatically created.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein the contents of the redirect link are manually created.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

80. (Currently Amended) A method of serving large objects, the method comprising:
receiving a ~~deployment~~ request for a particular object stored on an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

~~deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;~~
creating a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object may be requested; and

serving the particular object ~~directly~~ from one of the plurality of storage devices via the control unit of the intelligent storage system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the web servers using the object serving link.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A system for serving objects in a computing network, comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for an object to one of the plurality of storage devices; and

means for receiving a web server configured to receive the request for an object stored on an the intelligent storage system, the web server being configured to evaluate the request based on criteria, and if the criteria are met, to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system, and if the criteria are not met, to serve the stored object via the web server; and

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~~means for evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request.~~

83. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 82, wherein ~~the means for evaluating further comprises:~~

~~means for serving the stored object through the recipient of the received request~~ the web server is configured to redirect the request to the control unit by sending information that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

84. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the web server ~~recipient of the received request.~~

85. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 83, wherein ~~the means for informing uses~~ the web server is configured to send a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the send of the received request that automatically causes the sender to request establishment of the subsequent connection.

86. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~deploying objects~~ creating a link to an object, the system comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for the object to one of the plurality of storage devices;

~~means for receiving a deployment~~ a web server configured to receive the request for a particular the object and to evaluate the characteristics of the object,[[;]]

~~means for deploying the particular object on an intelligent storage system;~~

~~means for evaluating characteristics of the particular object;~~

~~means for creating wherein the web server is configured to create a redirect link configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system on one or more servers from which the particular object may be requested, if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object meet predetermined criteria and to create ; and~~

~~means for creating an object serving link on the one or more servers the web server if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the predetermined criteria.~~

87. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for serving objects in a computing network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices; and

computer readable program code configured to evaluate the request based on criteria; evaluating predetermined criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request.

computer readable program code configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the criteria are met; and

computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object via the web server if the criteria are not met.

88. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 87, wherein the computer readable program code configured to evaluating predetermined criteria to

see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request further comprises:

~~computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object through the recipient of the received request when the selected criteria are not met; and~~

computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met.

89. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the subsequent connection bypasses the ~~recipient of the received request~~ web server.

90. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the computer readable program code configured to inform a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment of the subsequent connection.

91. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the predetermined criteria is selected from one of a size of the stored object, a naming extension of the stored object, a name of the stored object, and a content type of the stored object.

92. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 91, wherein the predetermined criteria are statically-specified.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the predetermined criteria are dynamically-determined.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise one or more wildcards which may operate to match more than one stored object.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises a network-attached storage.

96. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for ~~deploying objects~~
creating a link to an object, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein,
the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a ~~deployment~~ request for a
particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices
and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the
plurality of storage devices;

~~computer readable program code configured to deploy the particular object on an~~
~~intelligent storage system;~~

computer readable program code configured to evaluate characteristics of the
particular object;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or
more web servers from which the particular object may be requested if the evaluated
characteristics of the particular object meet ~~predetermined~~ criteria, the redirect link being
configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving link on the one or more web servers if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object do not meet the ~~predetermined~~ criteria.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 96, wherein the redirect link enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 97, further comprising computer readable program code configured to request establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

99. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for serving objects, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a ~~deployment~~ request for a particular object stored on an intelligent storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices and a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;

~~computer readable program code configured to deploy the particular object on an intelligent storage system;~~

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on one or more web servers from which the particular object may be requested;

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving line on the one or more web servers; and

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computer readable program code configured to serve the particular object ~~directly~~
from one of the plurality of storage devices via the control unit of the intelligent storage
system using the redirect link or through a selected one of the web servers using the
object serving link.

100. (Canceled)